First Year Seminar  
POLL 101-01: Argument & Advocacy  
Fall 2010; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:40—11:10 a.m., Carnegie 206

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Office Phone: 651-696-6637  
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30 p.m. and by appointment  
Course Preceptor: Caitlin Hannahan, channahah@macalester.edu

Course Description: Through critical engagement with key arguments from US political history, this course aims to expand your understanding of how arguments operate in our culture and to cultivate your ability to read critically and creatively, make pertinent and well-substantiated claims, assess opposing arguments charitably, and communicate your judgments appropriately and effectively. Additionally, as a first year seminar, this class has the following objectives:

- It will introduce you to the field of political science.
- It will advance your writing and library research skills.
- It will help you adjust to Macalester's academic expectations, connect you to Macalester's community, and aid your transition to college.

Required Readings:
Note: Please bring this book to class on the days designated as writing workshops.

Additional readings are available on Moodle.

Course Guidelines:

Mode of Communication: Please do not hesitate to seek my help in case you need it. You need to think ahead, however, and contact me before an assignment is due. The best way to get my input is to come and see me in my office during my office hours. If you have a scheduling conflict and cannot come to my regular hours, please send me an email listing the times that could work for you and I will gladly schedule a special appointment for you. Please do not email me drafts of your papers. If you want me to look at something, just bring it to my office.

Attendance: Missing more than 2 classes without valid and documented excuse will affect your grade. Each additional absence will result in a reduction of ½ letter grade. Valid reasons for missing a class may include acute illness or an immediate family emergency, events that may prevent you from coming to school altogether. If such situations arise, please notify me as soon as possible. I also advise you to notify the office of the Dean of students because your overall academic standing may be affected. I am committed to work with you and the college to ensure your academic success; however, we all need to be on the same page and putting our efforts toward the same goal. Participating and staying in touch are essential elements of our collaboration this semester and our advising relationship in the future.
Readings: All readings should be completed prior to coming to class on the days assigned. In addition to the course book, readings will be placed on Moodle. Come to class prepared, as much of our class-time will be devoted to the analysis of those readings and your response to them. Read the assigned materials carefully, without rushing to find their weak points, then seek the help of the instructor and your peers in class to answer any questions and concerns that you might have. This will ensure that the quality of your in-class participation will be worthy of credit. Recognize that unless you have your reading done, you may not be able to participate in the discussion during the class period.

Discipline & Decorum: The purpose of debate and discussion is to allow ourselves to learn from each other. Arguments are not simply expressive acts, but transformative experiences: hence, you need to come to class willing to consider changing your initial position and opinions in the face of competing claims and evidence. You are encouraged to actively engage with the issues raised in class, but you should do so with recognition of and respect for each other’s differences.

Academic Integrity: Academic Dishonesty is constituted by plagiarism, misconduct, cheating, and fabrication. Plagiarism is presenting the thoughts, words, or images crafted by others as your own. Misconduct includes tampering with grades and theft of tests, other students’ files, and so forth. Cheating involves using the answers or knowledge of others on test material. Fabrication is the creation of sources and information that are not real. Cite all sources and do your own work. Evidence of academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade for the assignment, the course, or academic suspension. All college-wide policies, state and federal laws apply to the classroom and violations thereof, whether in class or in relation to class assignments, will result in immediate dismissal.

Special Needs: Accommodations will be provided in cases of documented disability. Please consult with the Office of Disability Services, Phone 651-696-6220. You need to inform me of any special needs no later than the first two weeks of class.

Assignments & Grades: All assignments must be completed on time. All papers should be typed. Use Times New Roman 12 point font, double spacing and standard 1” margin sizes. When you cite specific articles, you must follow the APA style of citation. Your name, the class section, and the assignment’s due date should appear in the top right corner of the front page. Please, staple the pages. In the absence of valid and documented reasons for being unable to meet a deadline (see Attendance above), late assignments (papers, exams, presentations) will be penalized ½ letter grade for each additional calendar day and no feedback will be provided.

Writing Assistance: Developing your writing is an ongoing process. In addition to writing more and regularly, the more you talk and think about your writing, the more sophisticated you will become in seeing the variety of choices and strategies you can have as a writer. Besides sharing your work with peers and working with the course preceptor on your writing assignments, working with a writing tutor is an excellent strategy for becoming a versatile, competent writer who can navigate the various genres and principles of academic and non-academic writing. The Macalester Academic Excellence (MAX) Center, located in Kagin Commons, has peer tutors available for assisting students in all stages of their writing. Hours are 9:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., M-F and 7 P.M. – 10 P.M., S-Th. Becky Graham and Jenny White also provide writing assistance to students during the daytime hours. M-F. You may drop in for help or call
x6121 (daytime) or x6193 during evening hours to schedule an appointment. I strongly encourage you to use this resource.

Grades and Assignments:

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<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Assignment 1</td>
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<td>Assignment 2</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Advocacy Speech</td>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
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**Participation**: Participation does not involve just the expression of your own views, but also your attention and thoughtful response to the views of others. Your success in this class will greatly depend on your willingness to participate and much of our class time will be devoted to discussing and debating issues raised in the readings. Participation matters not only as practice for your ability to interact in a relatively formal and structured way, but also as a way to enrich the discussion and each other, complicate the issues at hand, and put in practice the concepts offered in the readings and my lectures. Not the least, speaking in class consistently during the semester will help prepare you for your oral presentations at the end of the class.

**Midterm Exam**: Using different types of questions (multiple choice, true/false, short answer and/or essay), the exam will test your understanding of the concepts presented in class as well as your close reading of the course materials. The best way to prepare for the exam is to take detailed notes in class and to keep up with all your reading.

**Assignments 1 and 2**: You will receive a handout with detailed instructions for each assignment. These papers will be between 5 and 8 pages long, will be written in stages, and will respond to a specific prompt. The written assignments will be graded on the quality of your argument, the appropriate use of primary and external sources for evidence, and your ability to write in line with the conventions and standards of academic prose.

**Research Paper**: The second part of the semester will be dedicated to preparing you to become an advocate for a cause. You will embark on an in-depth research project culminating in a 12-15 page paper. Your paper should demonstrate that you have done thorough research on your topic and you have reached your thesis after thoughtful engagement with hard questions. Like the other written assignments, the research paper will be graded on the quality of your argument, the appropriate use of primary and external sources for evidence, and your ability to write in line with the conventions and standards of academic prose.

**Oral Presentation**: Based on your research for the research paper, you will prepare a 7 to 10 minute presentation in which you advocate for a specific policy in response to a controversial issue. Your presentation will have to demonstrate your facility with the range of advocacy strategies covered in this class. Your presentation will be graded on the quality of its argument, research, and delivery. and most of all, on your ability to adapt your message to the audience.
Tentative Schedule
Please consult the course website on Moodle for the most up-to-date schedule.

Friday, September 3
Introduction to POLI 101
Read Goodnight, Public Discourse

Tuesday, September 7

PART I: Elements and Principles of Public Advocacy
The concept of argument; Audiences and personas;
Read Betty Friedan, An Open Letter to True Men

Thursday, September 9
Types and Elements of Argument
Read Martin Luther King, Jr. Letter from Birmingham Jail

Tuesday, September 14
MLK continued

Thursday, September 16
Read Calhoun, “Slavery: A Positive Good”
Review of Assignment 1
Read Raimes and Jerskey, pp. 18-26, 42-50

Reminder: September 17 is the Last Day to Register, Add/Drop a class or Validate!

Tuesday, September 21
Writing Workshop
Bring draft of Assignment 1
Read Raimes and Jerskey, pp. 111-132

Thursday, September 23
Library Workshop

Tuesday, September 28
Writing Workshop
Principles of citation

Thursday, September 30
Assignment 1 due
The problem of evidence and proof
Read Barack Obama, Speech on the economy, Georgetown, April 2009

Reminder: October 1 is the last day to designate a grading option.
Tuesday, October 5
Anatomy of academic arguments
   Read Raines and Jerskey, pp. 164-182

Thursday, October 7
Anatomy of academic arguments, cont.

Tuesday, October 12
The concept of rhetorical proof; Narrative as proof
   Read Richard Nixon, “Vietnamization”
   Karlyn Kohrs Campbell, “The Rhetoric of Mythic America Revisited

Thursday, October 14
Arguments by model and anti-model; Rhetorical devices of visualization and amplification
   Read Martin Luther King, Jr. “I Have a Dream”

Review of Assignment 2

Tuesday, October 19
Strategies of refutation and dissent
   Read Sojourner Truth, “Ain’t I a Woman?” and Edward Kennedy, “Tolerance and Truth in America”

Thursday, October 21
Writing Workshop
   Bring draft of Assignment 2

Tuesday, October 26
   Fall Break (no classes)

Thursday, October 28
   Fall Break (no classes)

Tuesday, November 2
Review of the advocacy strategies explored in the class
Assignment 2 Due

Thursday, November 4
Exam 1

Tuesday, November 9
   ADVISING WEEK: Make an Appointment!!!

   PART II: Becoming an Advocate
   Discovering points of controversy, Stock issues of policy arguments

Thursday, November 11
Writing Workshop

**Reminder:** November 12 is the last day to withdraw from a class. Spring Registration starts on November 15.

Tuesday, November 16
Library workshop
ZDK is at NCA

Thursday, November 18
Writing Workshop

Tuesday, November 23
Writing Workshop

**Thursday, November 25**
*Thanksgiving Break (No classes)*

Tuesday, November 30
Oral argument workshop

Thursday, December 2
Presentations

Tuesday, December 7
Presentations

Thursday, December 9
Last Day of Class
Presentations

**Reminder:** January Independent Study/Internship registration is due on December 10.

***Final papers are due in my mailbox in 203 Carnegie on Wednesday, December 15 by 4 p.m.***